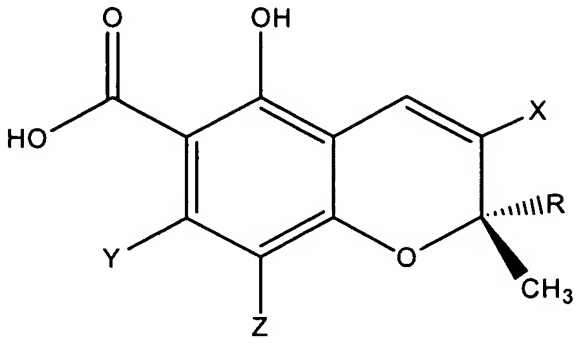
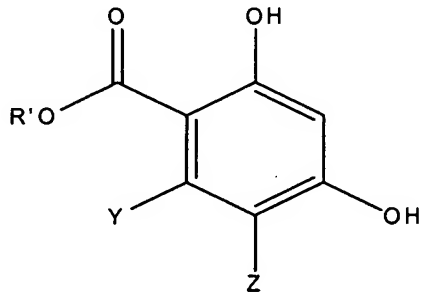
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for preparing a compound of formula (**1**)



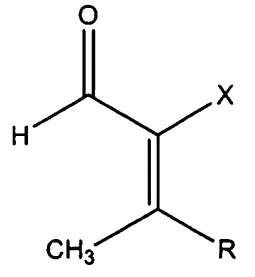
(**1**)

wherein R, X, Y, and Z are organic substituents that do not interfere with the condensation of (**2**) and (**3**), comprising (a) condensing a compound of formula (**2**):



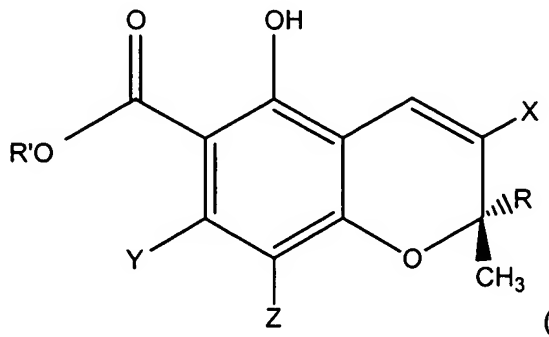
(**2**)

wherein R′ is a carboxylic acid protecting group, with a compound of formula (**3**):



(**3**)

in the presence of an effective amount of $CaCl_2$, $N[(C_2\text{-}C_4)alkyl]_3$ and $[(C_1\text{-}C_4)alkyl]OH$ and microwave irradiation to yield a compound of formula (**4**):



(**4**);

and (b) optionally removing protecting R′ to yield a compound of formula (**1**).

2. The method of claim 1 wherein Y is $(C_1\text{-}C_4)alkyl$.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein Y is methyl.

4. The method of claims 1, 2 or 3 wherein X and/or Z are H.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein $N[(C_2\text{-}C_4)alkyl]_3$ is NEt_3.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein $[(C_1\text{-}C_4)alkyl]OH$ is EtOH.

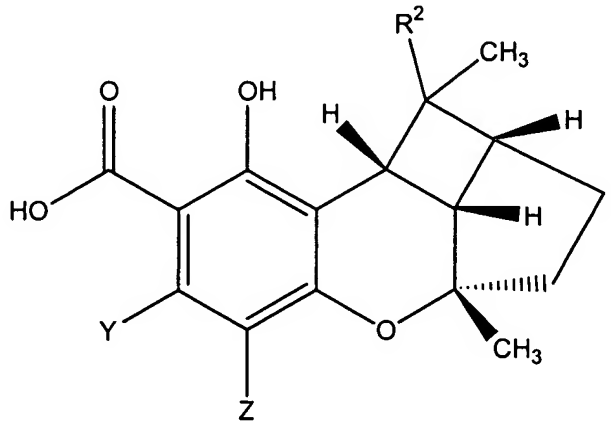
7. The method of claims 1, 2, 3 or 4 wherein R′ is 2-(trimethylsilyl)ethyl.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein R′ is removed with TBAF.

9. The method of claims 1, 2 or 3 wherein R is $C_3\text{-}C_{22}$ alkyl optionally comprising 1-3 double bonds.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein R is a terpene.

11. The method of claims 1, 2 or 3 wherein X is H, further comprising irradiating the compound of formula **1**, wherein R is $-CH_2CH_2CH=C(CH_3)R^2$, wherein R^2 is the remainder of organic group R, to yield a compound of formula (**6**):

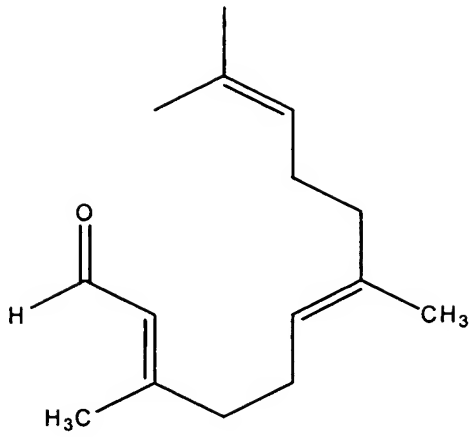


(6)

12. The method of claim 11 wherein R^2 is $-CH_2CH_2CH=C(Me)_2$.

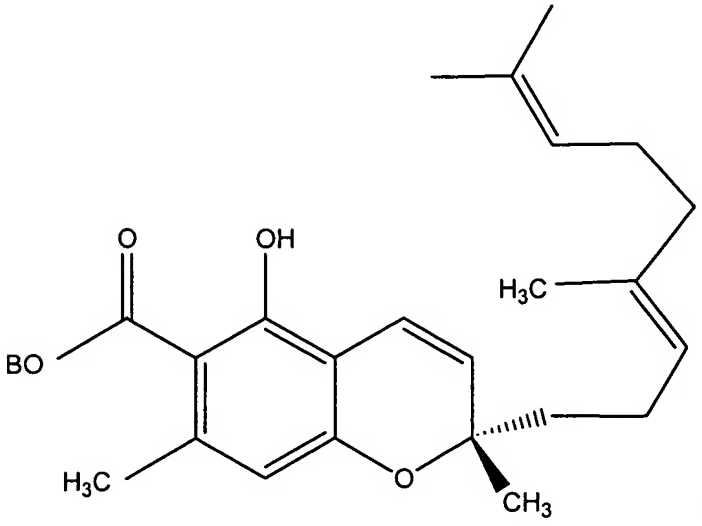
13. The method of claim 11 wherein Y is CH_3 and Z is H.

14. A method for preparing daurichromenic acid (**1a**), comprising (a) reacting 2-methyl-4,5-dihydroxybenzoic acid having a carboxy-protecting group with a compound of the formula (**3a**):



(3a)

in the presence of an effective amount of $CaCl_2$-$2H_2O$, NEt_3 and microwave irradiation to yield a compound of the formula (**4a**):



(4a)

wherein B is a carboxy-protecting group, and (b) removing B to yield daurichromenic acid.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein B is 2-TMS(ethyl) or (C_1-C_4)alkyl.

16. The method of claims 14 or 15 wherein daurichromenic acid (**1a**) is converted into rhododaurichromenic acid A (**5a**) and rhododaurichromenic acid B (**6a**) by irradiation.

17. The use of a compound of formula **1, 1a, 4, 4a, 5a, 6** or **6a** to treat HIV infection or to treat AIDS in a mammal in need of such treatment, comprising administering an effective amount of said compound to said mammal.

18. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound of formula **1, 1a, 4, 4a, 5a, 6 or 6a** in combination with a pharmaceutically-acceptable carrier or vehicle.

19. A dyestuff comprising an effective amount of a compound of formula **1, 1a, 4, 4a, 5a, 6 or 6a.**

20. An antibacterial or herbicidal composition comprising an effective amount of a compound of formula **1, 1a, 4, 4a, 5a, 6 or 6a.**